

Pacific and Credit Mobilier stock scandals in the 1800s to more recently the Keating Five, Koreagate, and Abscam affairs.

#### BENEFITS

Yet despite these concerns I believe that there is still a legitimate and important role for lobbyists and special interests to play in our system of government, and that the public's perception of their influence is often exaggerated.

As the founding fathers recognized, special interests have their drawbacks but they also play an important role in informing legislators of the concerns of major segments of the population. Advocacy groups can inform Congress of the ways legislation impacts their members, provide extensive information on upcoming issues, and help focus the public's attention on important issues. This flow of information between government and the governed enhances what Jefferson called the "dialogue of democracy". I've found that the most effective lobbyists are those providing reliable information to Members and staff. Lobbyists understand that trust is their most precious asset.

Special interests don't somehow just represent "the bad guys". Almost every American is represented by them in some way and has benefited from their work. Lobbyists work, for example, for the continuation of the home mortgage interest deduction, for expanded medical research, for protecting our lakes and rivers, for improving interstate highways, for maintaining the student loan program, and for protecting religious freedom. Advocacy groups have helped pass legislation ranging from key civil rights protections to the deficit reduction package that has finally balanced the federal budget. Hoosiers benefit directly from the lobbyists representing the interests of the State of Indiana and local cities and towns in Washington.

It is true that lobbyists sometimes get through Congress measures that help only a few at the expense of the broader public. But the ease by which special interests can manipulate the system and push things through is exaggerated by the public. First, while Members do pay attention to what advocacy groups say, they also pay very close attention to the broad interests of their constituents. The bottom line for Members is that if they ignore the wishes of their constituents, they simply won't get re-elected. Second, special interest groups have proliferated so much in recent years that they often cancel each other out. For example, in the area of health policy one or two groups used to dominate, but now there are 750 health groups alone. Third, the founding fathers specifically set up our government with numerous obstacles for special interests trying to push through legislation. With its complex rules and maze of procedural hurdles, Congress was designed to slow things down and allow all sides a chance to be heard.

#### WHAT'S NEEDED

Special interest groups have a mixed impact on our political system. We shouldn't simply condemn them, but we do need to rein in some of the excesses and address legitimate concerns.

Various steps are needed. First, we need to pass campaign finance reform to curb the increasing reliance of lawmakers on money from special interests. Second, the House in recent years has basically banned gifts from lobbyists. Although some people are unhappy with the change, we need to keep tough gift restrictions in place. Third, Congress passed improved lobbying disclosure in 1995 to get a better handle on who is lobbying and what they are doing. That was important, but we need to closely monitor the law to make sure it is not easily avoided, as past reforms have

been. Fourth, we need to prohibit travel for Members and staff funded by groups with direct interest in legislation before Congress. Fifth, we need better disclosure of when lobbyists have played a major role in drafting legislation Congress is considering. Clearly the public has a right to know that. Sixth, because Members are much more likely to be contacted by special interest groups representing the better-off, we need to recognize that bias and make a special effort to ensure that all people in our society, including the less well-off, still have a voice in the decisions being made. Finally, all of us need to focus more on what's good for the country as a whole and less on what's good for each of us as individuals. At the end of the day, we are all Americans.

#### CONCLUSION

The proliferation of special interest groups may in some ways be worrisome, but it is an integral part of our system of government. As Madison noted, a free society nurtures politically active groups. They may not always act in the way that some of us might like and they may be prone to excesses, but they are still an important force in our system of representative democracy.

#### HONORING MADALYN AND MATTHEW LINSKEY

#### HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following essay, "Honoring Our Heroes," written by Madalyn Linksey, an eight year old constituent of mine who attends Kincaid Elementary. Madalyn speaks eloquently about the love and inspiration she and her family receive on a daily basis from her ten year old autistic brother, Matthew. I was privileged to be able to read Madalyn's essay at the April 25 Atlanta Investment Conference, the proceeds of which benefit the Friends of Autism. Through his enormous personal strength, Matthew reminds us all that with determination, courage, and love, we can overcome the most onerous of burdens to live a productive and fruitful life. I am proud to represent Matthew and Madalyn.

#### "HONORING OUR HEROES"

I would like to tell you about my real hero. He is my brother, Matthew Arthur Linskey, Jr. He is ten years old.

My brother was born with a disability called autism. He is mentally challenged and sees the world through a troubled and confused mind. He lives in a world that none of us can imagine. Somehow he finds a way to survive.

Adults and children sometimes stare and make fun of him because they don't understand his strange behavior. I'm sure that it hurts his feelings but he shows a lot of courage and tries to go on with his life.

He is very caring and compassionate to me when I am sad or angry about something even though I know he does not understand.

Matthew is persistent when trying to learn how to do simple tasks. He is very brave when he has to do things that his mind tells him to be afraid of.

This past summer after many years of swim lessons, Matthew competed in his first race. It was in our neighborhood on the summer swim team. We were swimming against another neighborhood team. Matthew swam

against boys his own age and finished last. He was so happy. Watching him made me feel so much joy in my heart. I was so proud that he tried his best.

Matthew has been a special gift to me and my family. He has taught me to be patient and understanding to people with special needs. He has also taught me never to give up trying to reach my goals. If he has the courage to do it, then I do too.

I admire and love Matthew Arthur Linksey, Jr. He is my brother, my best friend, and my "Real Life Hero" forever.

#### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH HEYMAN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

#### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Joseph L. Heyman. Joe has recently accepted his appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Joe, who is from Grand Rapids, Ohio, has distinguished himself as an outstanding student and a fine student-athlete while attending Ostego High School.

During his career at Ostego High School, Joe excelled academically by achieving a perfect grade point average of 4.00, which ranks him first in his class of 132 students. In addition, Joe has been active in the National Honor Society and was named a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist.

On the fields of competition, Joe has proven himself to be a talented and gifted student-athlete through his performances in both varsity football and varsity track. Joe has also been active in government and community service organizations. He has served on the Ostego High School Student Council, and is currently working on his Eagle Scout Award with the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Joe will be very successful at West Point, and in all of his future endeavors. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying tribute to Joseph Heyman, and in wishing him all the best as he prepares for the United States Military Academy.

#### LENAWEE COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL

#### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officers work daily in communities across the Nation, assisting individuals in the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness;

Law enforcement officers are, most often, the first contact individuals have with their representatives of government, and they perform the duties and responsibilities of that important liaison role with wisdom and compassion;

Law enforcement officers are expected to perform duties above and beyond those of the

average person, including duties such as rescuing individuals from a multitude of life-threatening incidents and assisting families during times of great personal sorrow;

Law enforcement officers engage in a variety of tasks, from visiting with home-bound elderly citizens, mediating domestic disputes, and providing counsel to youngsters on our streets, to retrieving lost pets and bringing a spirit of friendship and compassion to an environment often lacking in these essential qualities;

Law enforcement officers daily encounter individuals within our society who reject all moral values and ethical codes of conduct in pursuit of criminal activities;

Law enforcement officers risk their health, lives, and future happiness with their families in order to safeguard communities from criminal predation;

In the course of their duties, law enforcement officers may find themselves not only in harm's way, but also victims of violent crime; and

The contributions made by Dep. Stanley B. Hoisington, Tpr. Cal Jones, Tpr. Douglas Pelott, Marshall Richard Teske, Tpr. Roger Adams, Ptlm. Bobby Williams, Ptlm. Steven Reuther, Tpr. Byron Erikson, law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, should be honored, their dedication and sacrifice recognized, and their unselfish service to the Nation remembered.

#### HONORING POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

#### HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride and respect for our brave law enforcement officials during National Police Week. I regret, however, that this body has not been afforded the chance to truly honor fallen police officers, as they would under my legislation, H. Con. Res 47. Unfortunately, my bill was not included on yesterday's suspension calendar of votes.

The bill that Congress voted on and passed yesterday remembers the sacrifices of police officers. I do not intend to demean its purpose. It is a worthy bill with honest sentiment. However, by denying the members in this chamber the ability to also vote on H. Con. Res 47, the leadership has failed to do all they can to honor police officers killed in the line of duty.

Under my bill, whenever a police officer is killed in the line of duty, a special U.S. Flag flown over the Capitol Building would be lowered to half-staff and then given to the family of the officer after it is flown. Currently, a flag is flown at half-staff only once a year to honor Police Officers Memorial Day. More than just words, this measure would entrust our nation's most powerful symbol, our flag, to remind Americans on a daily basis of the bravery and sacrifices of this nation's law enforcement officers.

This flag flown at half-staff over the Capitol would send a signal to Congress, to all of Washington and the entire nation that our brave law enforcement officers deserve our highest respect. The cold reality is that every 57 hours, an officer will die in the line of duty

in this country. When we lose a police officer in the line of duty, we have lost a hero.

My bill has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Union of Police Associations.

We must do all we can to protect and honor the police officers who risk their lives for the safety of our communities. When decision-makers in Washington see this constant reminder of the bravery of law enforcement officers, it will strengthen their support for the men and women who fight crime across America. I would hope that this Congress will seize the occasion of Police Memorial Day to enact H. Con. Res 47, important legislation to honor fallen officers with a U.S. Flag at the U.S. Capitol dedicated to their service.

#### A BRAVE TALE

#### HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor an extraordinary American and constituent of mine from the Third District of Utah.

On March 12, 1998, Sgt. First Class Bryan Smethurst, a recruiter for the Army National Guard in Utah, was on his daily morning commute through Provo Canyon. Little did he know at the time that he would perform an uncommon act of bravery that Thursday morning that would save the life of a woman, her pregnant daughter and her three year old granddaughter.

The morning was pretty typical for that time of year and Bryan Smethurst was driving the icy and wet Provo Canyon road to work. But through the hazy windshield that morning he spotted something a little different—fresh skid marks on the asphalt were up ahead and then veered toward the river to an overturned car. Realizing that the accident must have just occurred—it would have been cleaned up by then if it had happened earlier—he stopped to investigate. The sight to behold left him no time to assess the danger to himself: He dove into the freezing Provo River to rescue the occupants of the overturned car.

In moments, Bryan was struggling out of the river and pulling to safety the driver of the car, a young and pregnant woman who was frantically trying to help her mother and daughter still trapped. Rushing back into the river and moving against the current, Bryan was able to open one of the car doors and pull the grandmother to safety. The third passenger of the overturned car was a child, who although quite secure in a car seat, was trapped upside-down with the icy river flowing just below her eyebrows. Battling an impending numbness in his hands from the freezing water and weather, Bryan released the child from the car seat and brought her safely to shore as well.

All three occupants of the car had to be treated at a local hospital for hypothermia, minor cuts and bruises. They were able to return to their homes later in the day.

Three lives were saved on the morning of March 12 by Sgt. First Class Bryan Smethurst, a courageous individual who acted without regard for his own life, but rather in the name of unselfish and brotherly love.

It is precisely for such acts of bravery and kindness that we must strive to convey the appropriate recognition, honor and gratitude.

#### TRIBUTE TO PASTOR G.L. JOHNSON

#### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor G.L. Johnson, Senior Pastor of the Peoples Church of Fresno, California. Pastor Johnson is celebrating 35 years of exceptional religious service at the Peoples Church of Fresno.

G.L. Johnson was born in Houston, Texas on February 24, 1928. In 1950, G.L. Johnson married Jacqueline (Jackie) Cockerell, and in 1953 they had their only daughter Cindy. Pastor Johnson attended Navarro Junior College of Corsicana, Texas; Southwestern Assembly of God College of Waxahachie, Texas; and Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Fresno, California. He was ordained in Fort Worth, Texas in 1951.

In the Ministry, Pastor Johnson served as Youth Minister throughout the United States from 1946–1952. He served as a pastor in Corsicana, Texas from 1951–1953 and served as a Statewide Evangelist from 1953–1957. G.L. Johnson moved on to serve as a Pastor in Owensboro, Kentucky from 1957–1958 and then in Tallahassee, Florida from 1958–1961. He was the Associate Director of a Latin American Orphanage from 1961–1963. G.L. Johnson currently serves as Senior Pastor at the Peoples Church of Fresno where he has been serving since 1963.

Some of the many awards and recognition that Pastor Johnson has received include the Distinguished Service Award from the City of Fresno, acting as Mayor of Fresno for the Day in 1973 and 1987, and being recognized as a Distinguished Minister by the California Theological Seminary Hall. He received the P.C. Nelson Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southwestern College and the Calab Encouragement award. He is the author of "How to Conduct a Stewardship Campaign in the Local Church" and the "Loneliness Booklet."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Pastor G.L. Johnson for 35 years of service to the Peoples Church in Fresno, California. I applaud his commitment and dedication to Christianity, and his effort to strengthen religion in the community is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor G.L. Johnson many more years of success.

#### TEEN SMOKING

#### HON. NEWT GRINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. GRINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to read the following column, "Blowing Smoke on Smoking," from the April 27, 1998 edition of the Marietta Daily Journal.

Like most Americans, I was sickened to discover internal tobacco industry documents